

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 83

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJ: SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF CHOU'S DEATH: ONE POSTER CHALLENGES PEKING

REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE

REF: PEKING 68

1. SUMMARY. PEKING REMAINED QUIET ON THE FIRST DAY FOLLOWING THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF PREMIER CHOU'S DEATH. THE ONLY NOTABLE EVENT WAS POSTING OF A "PEOPLE'S" BOOK TO COMMEMORATE CHOU WITH AN EXPLANATORY POSTER INDICATING THAT THE PEKING MUNICIPAL REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE HAD EARLIER FAILED TO GIVE PERMISSION FOR FORMAL PUBLICATION. THE POSTER, WHICH CONSTITUTED A DIRECT CHALLENGE TO THE AUTHORITY OF WU TEH AND HIS PEKING REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE, REMAINED UP THROUGHOUT JANUARY 9 BUT HAD BEEN REMOVED BY MIDNIGHT. END SUMMARY.

2. THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF CHOU EN-LAI'S PASSING (REFTEL)
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CONTINUED TO BE OBSERVED IN SUBDUED FASHION ON JANUARY 9. SOME NEW PAPER WREATHS WERE PLACED AT THE BASE OF THE MARTYR'S MONUMENT IN TIEN AN MEN SQUARE, BUT ONLOOKERS WERE FEW AND NO NEW POSTERS OR INSCRIPTIONS WERE IN EVIDENCE. BY MIDNIGHT THE COMBINATION OF EIGHT ARMED PLA TROOPS, FRIGID WEATHER, AND DEARTH OF ATTRACTIONS FOR CURIOSITY SEEKERS WAS SUFFICIENT TO DETER

ALL BUT A SCORE OF PEKING CITIZENS FROM MAKING THE PILGRIMAGE TO THE
AREA.

3. THE SOLITARY POSTER OF POSSIBLE POLITICAL INTEREST WAS
PASTED UP NOT IN TIEN AN MEN SQUARE BUT A HALF MILE TO THE
WEST AT THE INTERSECTION OF CHANG AN STREET AND HSI TAN.
BETWEEN 50 AND 100 PAGES OF A 600 PAGE VOLUME ENTITLED
"TIEN AN MEN REVOLUTIONARY POETRY SELECTION" WERE PASTED
IN SEQUENCE ALONG A LONG WALL; PRECEDING THE PHOTOGRAPHS
AND POEMS WAS A POSTER EXPLAINING THE ORIGIN OF THE WORK.

4. THE VOLUME ITSELF WAS PRINTED BY THE PEKING #2 FOREIGN
LANGUAGE SCHOOL, AUTHORED BY THE PSEUDONYMOUS
T'UNG HUAI-CHOU ("CHILDREN REMEMBER PREMIER CHOU"?), AND
PUBLISHED IN SEPTEMBER 1977. JUDGING BY THE TABLE OF
CONTENTS AND THE SELECTIONS POSTED, THE ENTIRE WORK WAS
DEVOTED TO "PEOPLE'S" POEMS OF DIFFERENT VERSE LENGTH AND
STYLE WHICH HAD BEEN WRITTEN IMMEDIATELY AFTER CHOU'S DEATH.
THE GREAT MAJORITY LAUDED PREMIER CHOU, WHILE A FEW PRAISED
CHEN YI.

5. ACCORDING TO THE EXPLANATORY POSTER, THE POEMS HAD
BEEN COLLECTED, PRINTED AND DISTRIBUTED SAMIZDAT-STYLE
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BY THE PEOPLE TO DISPLAY THEIR LOVE AND RESPECT FOR
PREMIER CHOU. FOLLOWING THE TIEN AN MEN INCIDENT IN
APRIL 1976 HOWEVER, WHEN HE BECAME CLEAR THAT THE GANG

OF FOUR WAS IN THE ASCENDANCY, MANY PEOPLE TOOK THE
POEMS AND "BURIED THEM IN POTTED PLANTS" OR IN THE GROUND.
FOLLOWING THE SMASHING OF THE GANG OF FOUR IN OCTOBER
1976, THE POEMS WERE RETRIEVED, COLLECTED AGAIN, AND
PREPARED FOR PUBLICATION.

6. THE VILLAIN OF THE PIECE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN THE
PEKING MUNICIPAL REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE, WHICH FOR
UNEXPLAINED REASONS FAILED TO GIVE THE GO-AHEAD ON
PUBLICATION.

7. THE AUTHOR OF THE EXPLANATORY POSTER, WHO MAKES
SPECIAL MENTION OF ASSISTANCE GIVEN BY PUBLIC SECURITY
BUREAU PERSONNEL IN PEKING TO SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF
THE PROJECT, LEAVES UNEXPLAINED THE QUESTION OF HOW
THE WORK CAME TO BE PUBLISHED (BY PEKING #2 FOREIGN
LANGUAGE INSTITUTE) DESPITE OPPOSITION FROM THE PEKING
REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE.

8. THE POSTER WHICH HAD ATTRACTED A GOOD DEAL OF ATTENTION
BY DUSK O JANUARY 9, HADBEEN REMOVED BY MIDNIGHT.

9. COMMENT: THE INTENT OF THE POSTER WAS CLEARLY TO
EMBARRASS AND PERHAPS PUT ADDITIONAL PRESSURE ON
POLITBURO MEMBER AND PEKING REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN WU TEH. LOCAL AUTHORITIES OBVIOUSLY DECIDED
THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE TOLERATED AND ORDERED THE
OFFENDING POSTERREMOVED.
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